



July 5, 1966

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**Missions Breakthrough
Near, Paschall Says**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, H. Franklin Paschall, returned here from a recent round-the-world tour of Baptist missions points, saying that Baptist missions abroad is on the verge of a breakthrough.

"Everywhere I went, all of the missionaries I met felt they were near a breakthrough in missions advance, but it had not yet come," said Paschall, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville.

He had visited Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, South Viet Nam, Thailand, India, and Greece on a tour sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The new SBC President said he did not know what could bring about the "breakthrough" in missions advance, but "we need to pray for foreign missions more than ever before," he said.

Paschall said he was particularly impressed with the enthusiasm, optimism, and evangelistic purpose of the Japanese Baptist pastors. He called Baptist missions work in Japan "challenging and urgent".

The new SBC president stayed overnight in Saigon, but said he was not able to learn a great deal about the war in Viet Nam.

He said he got the general impression that the Viet Cong are losing on the field, and that as a result they are desperately trying to overthrow the Ky government and force elections.

"Sand bags, bunkers, and barbed wire were everywhere in Saigon," he observed. "I was told that one out of every three or four persons in Saigon is a Viet Cong."

He added that he did not come back with any firm conclusions about the U.S. policy in Viet Nam. "This is a complex area where no man, in a brief visit there, can know what the right approach is."

Paschall said most of his time in Viet Nam, as in the other countries he visited, was spent in consulting with Southern Baptist foreign missionaries.

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Fire Destroys Church;
\$250,000 Damage Done

7/5/66

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)--Fire gutted the Newell Baptist Church near here, completely destroying the \$250,000 sanctuary leaving only the charred brick walls standing.

The church building was only two years old. The church's pastor, Dan Silver, called it "a success story gone up in flames."

"Sheer faith built this church," Siler said. "A few years ago, this was a struggling congregation and they set about the job of building this church.

"They raised money; they worked physically, digging the basement and doing other jobs. It was their love for each other and their love for the Lord that built this church.

"Now it (the building) is all gone," he said. "All our hymnals, pianos, music, choir robes, our organ, and office equipment and records---gone."

"But these people are the kind who will rise again, and knowing their love for the Lord, I have no fears that the church will build again," Silver said.

The pastor said the building debt is covered by insurance, but the remainder of the loss is not. "I don't know exactly what will be covered. That will have to be checked."

The fire apparently started in the attic of the church. The roof was already caving in when the fire department arrived.

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Seminary, College Offer
Joint Degree Program

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A new arrangement announced jointly by the University of Louisville and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here will allow graduate students to take courses for credit in both schools beginning this fall.

Under the arrangement, graduate students in the department of history at University of Louisville and in the school of theology at Southern Seminary are now eligible to take about 35 courses in what the two schools have designated "common areas."

These areas are church history, including history of theology and religions, and ancient Near Eastern studies, including biblical archaeology and Old Testament interpretation.

A student may take up to 12 of his 24 hours of course work in one of the common areas at either school. The remaining half of his course work would be carried out in his own institution with the master's thesis to be written in one of the common areas.

A unique feature of the agreement is that a student could be granted both a master of arts degree in history and a master of theology degree with only 36 hours of course work, since 12 hours would be common to both degrees.

Similar arrangements have been made for a master of arts and doctor of theology combination. In both cases, two separate theses would be required.

This is the second innovation step in the school of theology curriculum at Southern Seminary this year. In January a new interdisciplinary professional-degree program--including team teaching and a wider choice of specialized electives--was announced for entering students, to begin this fall also.

The history "consortium" is the second in a proposed series of academic agreements with the University of Louisville. Some 25 students are now enrolled in the joint social work program begun in 1963 in which students may earn both the master of religious education degree in church social work from the seminary and the master of social work degree from the municipal university's Kent School of Social Work, one of the few such accredited schools in the nation.

This combination of degrees qualifies Christian workers for service in any government, private or denominational social work ministry. It is the only program of its kind among Baptists.

In announcing the history agreement, University of Louisville President Philip Davidson and seminary President Duke K. McCall stressed that it is only the beginning of a wider range of joint programs.

Other areas of common academic interest--including philosophy, psychology, literature and sociology--are being investigated, and other schools in the region may be invited to co-operate in future ventures.

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Baptist School Gets
Millionth Telephone

7/5/66

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--A gold-plated telephone, marking the one-millionth telephone installation in Alabama by Southern Bell, was installed recently at Samford University, a Baptist school in Birmingham.

Frank Newton, Southern Bell vice president for Alabama, presented the historic phone to Leslie Wright, Samford president.

Newton said that the millionth telephone was placed at the university as a symbol of the contribution that education makes to industry and industry in return makes to the educational facilities of the South.

Wright, in accepting the gold-plated telephone, said: "Truly, education and industry are partners; each contributing to the growth and well-being of the other."

The first call placed on the one-millionth telephone in Alabama went to the company's president, Frank M. Malone in Atlanta, who predicted that Southern Bell will install its 10 millionth telephone in its nine-state area early this fall.

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Samford University, with 2,800 students, was formerly called Howard College. It is now named for Frank P. Samford, a trustee for the school for 28 years. Samford, head of the National Life Insurance Co., recently stepped down as a director of Southern Bell for 16 years.

About 200 business, education, and religious leaders from throughout the state were present when the gold-plated telephone was presented to Samford.

Also taking part on the program were George Bagley, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alabama Baptist State Executive Board, and J. R. White, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala., and president of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

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South Carolina Paper
Names Associate Editor

7/5/66

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--Fletcher Allen, former news director at Furman University here, has been named associate editor of the Baptist Courier, state Baptist weekly newspaper published here, effective Aug. 1.

A 1954 graduate of Furman, Allen was news director and alumni editor at the Baptist school from 1958 until 1964 when he resigned to become assistant advertising and public relations manager for the Sonoco Co., Hartsville, S. C.

A native of Hartsville, Allen was a reporter and later sports editor for the Florence (S. C.) Morning News following Army service in Germany. In 1958 he joined the Furman staff.

His appointment as new associate editor for the weekly Baptist paper was announced by Editor John E. Roberts in the columns of the Baptist Courier. Roberts said his coming would give "considerable strength in news coverage" to the paper.

The 35-year-old newsman is chairman of deacons at the First Baptist Church of Hartsville, and has also held such offices as Training Union director, Sunday School teacher, and Brotherhood president. He is married with three daughters.

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